

God, I feel for these babies,
I wish everybody would

USDA Says "No Downers" in School Lunch Program

This summer, the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) reviewed and revised its policy regarding the purchase of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program (beginning in School Year 2000-2001) and other federal food and nutrition programs, and it has taken a major step in the direction of ending the downed animal trade. According to an agency statement, "USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product from non-ambulatory cattle, commonly known as 'downers'."

God bless you! for doing something! USDA,



Carcasses originating from cattle which must be processed in accordance with *FSIS Directive 6900.1R1 - Humane Handling of Disabled Livestock*, issued November 2, 1998, must be segregated to assure that the product from these carcasses is not included in the USDA purchased ground beef."

This development shows a growing consensus—even among industry and government officials—that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals causes intolerable animal suffering and poses an unnecessary risk to human health.

* * ↓ * ↓ ↑ Please help stop this somebody... please put your faith forward

Letters to FDA Urgently Needed!

Letters are urgently needed to end the downed animal trade. Please write to the Food and Drug Administration's Dockets Management Branch to urge that they grant our petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals—docket number 98P-0151/CP1. It is critical that you include the docket number in your comment.

Contact:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785
Fax: 301-827-6870
Email: FDADockets@oc.fda.gov

Some points to make include:

- Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).
- It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains—inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

98P-0151

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No being deserves this! // Please help. Thank you - diana reese, Iowa



THE WELFARE OF CALVES IN VEAL PRODUCTION: A Summary of the Scientific Evidence

INTRODUCTION

Veal is a light-colored meat which comes from young calves who are raised on a restricted diet and whose movements are severely limited. The calves are fed an all-liquid milk substitute which is deficient in iron and fiber. It is designed to cause anemia which produces the pale-colored flesh sold as "white" veal. In addition, veal calves are confined in crates which are just two feet wide, and they are unable to walk or exercise throughout their entire lives (Reece & Hotchkiss, 1987). This confinement prevents muscle development to keep the meat tender, and it hastens weight gain since the calves do not expend calories exercising. No straw or other bedding is provided due to the fear that the calves may eat the straw, which would make their flesh darker in color (Stevenson, 1999).

About 750,000 calves are raised for veal every year in the United States (American Veal Association, 2000). Most veal calves are unwanted males from dairy farms, who are typically slaughtered before 5 months of age (Le Neindre, 1993). Unlike calves raised by the beef industry, who usually nurse from their mothers for about 6 months, calves raised for veal are removed from mothers immediately after birth. They commonly experience the stress of minimal colostrum (first milk) intake (Reece & Hotchkiss, 1987) as well as isolation from the dam and other calves. Veal crates are "an extreme example of maximum close individual confinement with significant curtailment of a variety of natural behaviors" (Friend & Dellmeier, 1988).

Methods used to produce veal have been widely criticized as inhumane, and veal consumption in the United States has dropped significantly in recent decades. A June 2000 poll of 1264 adults across the United States conducted by Zogby International for Farm Sanctuary found that nearly 60% of the respondents never ate veal while another 30% only ate veal a few times a year. In Europe, the use of veal crates and the anemic diet have been banned for humane reasons, and the European Commission's Scientific Veterinary Committee has recommended that calves be kept in groups, have sufficient room to lie down comfortably, and be given a properly balanced diet (Europa, 1996).

Scientific evidence suggests that the restricted diet and the intensive confinement used to produce "white" veal impairs both the physical and psychological well-being of calves.

PHYSICAL DISORDERS

Calves, like other animals, need whole-some food and exercise to achieve optimal health. When calves raised for veal are denied these basic needs, they suffer from various physical maladies including: abnormal gut development, stomach ulceration, physical discomfort, impaired locomotion, and a greater susceptibility to disease.

Abnormal Gut Development

The veal calves' all-liquid diet which is deficient in iron and fiber is a major cause of poor welfare in itself. The European Union's Scientific Veterinary Committee's 1995 report *Welfare of Calves* cited much scientific literature and concluded that a diet deficient in roughage and iron can lead to serious maladies for the calves and cause abnormal gut development (Stevenson, 1999). In fact, it stated that calves fed a milk diet with no solid feed would die before adulthood (Stevenson, 1999). According to Wiepkema et al. (1987), the absence of roughage in the diet of the milk-fed calf "hinders the development of rumination [digestion] and associated processes."

Stomach Ulceration

The restricted diet may also cause stomach ulceration in calves. Welchman and Baust (1987) found that ulceration of the abomasum (a stomach-like organ) is common in veal calves slaughtered at three to five months of age. They suggest that lesions found in two-thirds of the calves were primarily associated with the consumption of milk replacer. It has also been hypothesized that stress can contribute to the development of stomach ulcers as discussed below.

Physical Discomfort

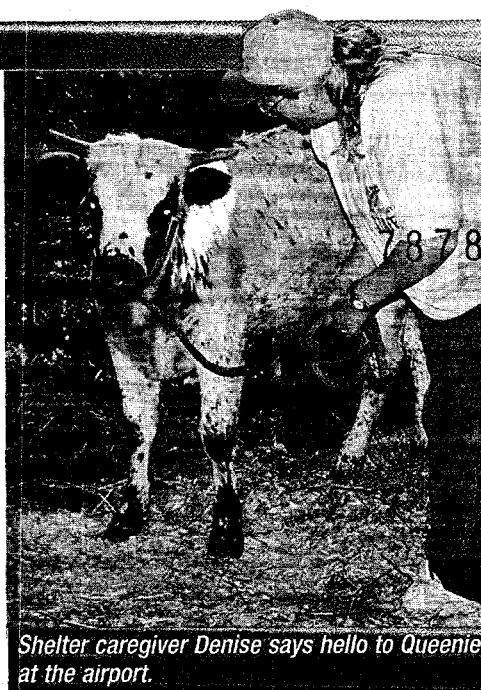
The limitation of space that a crate poses is a major welfare problem (Le Neindre, 1993). The standard size of veal crates is not sufficient for the calves to lie down normally, and they are forced to assume abnormal and uncomfortable positions. In a 1991 study by Le Neindre et al., calves in small pens spent more time with four legs bent and less time lying with all four legs stretched than those in large

Quest for

SHE MADE A DARING DASH FROM A NEW YORK CITY SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN QUEENS...AND WON THE HEARTS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO JOINED HER QUEST FOR FREEDOM.

We're talking, of course, about "Queenie," a young cow who was slated for slaughter at Astoria Live Poultry, a meat market that keeps live animals and allows customers to choose the animals they want butchered. After hearing the screams of other animals, Queenie made her own choice—a choice any animal would make in the same situation if given a chance. After escaping from the slaughterhouse, Queenie ran several blocks through the streets of New York City, surprising motorists and passers-by. Though she avoided capture at first, the five-hundred-pound cow was finally caught after a wild chase with NYPD cars, local authorities, and a tranquilizer gun.

Queenie's freedom dash was quickly picked up by the media—and her story spread throughout the country. Queenie's courageous escape was featured on national television, and millions of viewers saw a frightened cow running from the slaughterhouse, clearly aware of the fate that had awaited her. Hundreds of calls poured into The Center for Animal Care



Shelter caregiver Denise says hello to Queenie at the airport.

and Control and Astoria Live Poultry, urging both the agency and the slaughterhouse owner to release the animal to a sanctuary where she could live out the remainder of her life.

Alerted to the cow's plight by Farm Sanctuary members, we immediately contacted the animal control agency and offered to provide Queenie a safe, loving, permanent home. For several hours, it was unclear if the agency would obtain custody of the cow, but public sentiment and pressure paid off—and the slaughterhouse owner agreed to give the cow to the city. In statements to newspapers, Aladdin El-sayed, owner of Astoria Live Poultry, which is a halal slaughterhouse stated, "God was willing to give it a new life, so why wouldn't I?" (Newsday). El-sayed also stated he had paid \$500 for the cow, and had been fined \$1,000 for causing an "animal nuisance."

The Health Department may fine him an additional \$2,000. El-sayed claimed he "lost a lot of money," but that it didn't matter because, in his own words, "There is something with this cow" (Daily News).

After receiving the word on Friday afternoon that Queenie would be given to Farm Sanctuary, our animal transport vehicle was rolling to New York City by Friday night. We picked up Queenie from the JFK Airport

Freedom

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where she was being held, and drove her directly to our New York shelter. Queenie jumped off the trailer amid cheers from the sanctuary staff...and loud "welcome" moo's from the shelter cows.

That's Some Cow

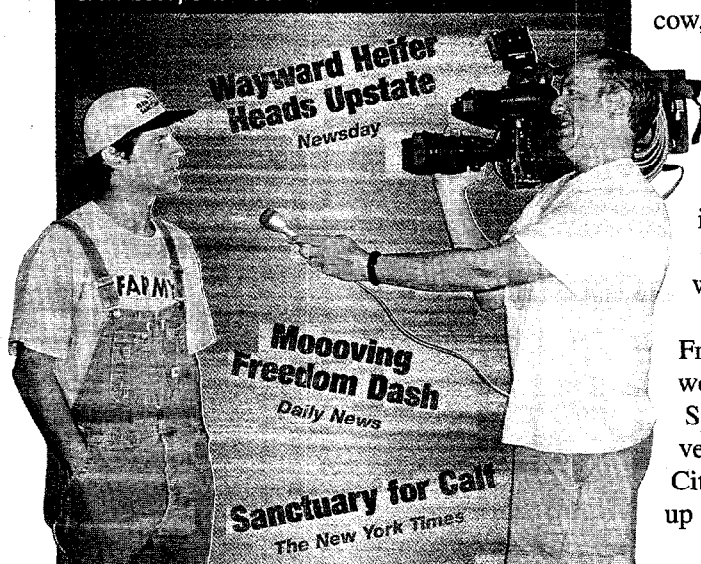
Queenie has put a face on vegetarianism. With news stories on the major television networks, *Associated Press*, and articles in *The New York Times*, *New York Daily News*, and dozens of other newspapers, millions of people have learned that farm animals have feelings too.

Queenie's quest has also launched a neighborhood effort to close the slaughterhouse. Like Queenie seizing her



After gentle coaxing, Queenie is on the trailer and headed to sanctuary.

Director Gene Bauston tells reporter about Queenie's heroic escape to freedom.



moment for freedom, residents have seized the news attention to draw attention to their demand to close the meat market. Among their concerns reported in the *New York Post*, residents stated, "This is a market that we don't believe is treating anything humanely, and we want to see it closed for that reason alone.... Through the night, you can hear the screaming of the animals. I don't know what they are doing to them."

Queenie knew...and now the rest of the world knows too.

Photo credits for this page: Joyce Friedman

FARM SANCTUARY went to stockyards in Vermont to gather evidence for passage of state and federal downed animal protection legislation. Our investigation resulted in videotape documentation, photographs...and a new beginning.

STOCKYARD REPORT

VERMONT STOCKYARD INVESTIGATION - 3/27/00

Cows Observed:

■ One downed cow in a pen with about eight other cows. She was laying down, moaning. A cow stepped on her neck. I videotaped her.

■ At the veal auction, a stockyard worker told another stockyard worker that two cows wouldn't come out of the trailer. He told him to take a break and get the electric prod. One cow's head, neck and leg were falling out of the trailer onto the loading dock. Couldn't see the other cow.

About 20 minutes later, the stockyard worker came out and placed a chain around the leg of the cow that was falling out of the trailer. A stockyard worker pulled the truck forward. The cow was then on the loading dock. A stockyard worker drove the skidsteer to where she was and put her back end in the bucket and pushed her forward. She was barely able to stand and lost her footing a couple of times. Her knees were bloody from falling down. One stockyard worker electric prodded her and another used a cane. The first stockyard worker said she was just lazy because she wouldn't stand and called her dumb when she didn't want to go into the pen.

■ I asked what they did with downers. The stockyard worker said they wait until the next day to take them to the slaughterhouse. They use the skidsteer to load them. I asked how come...he said because there is still good meat on them.

Calves Observed:

■ There were three calves that got dragged into the ring by their legs. Two calves got up in the ring, one was bought...not sure about the other. An auction worker said to mark the third calf as dead and he tossed him through a small door onto the loading dock.

■ I went outside to see the calf, and a stockyard worker jokingly asked if I wanted him. I said "yes." He said, "Why? He's almost dead and won't make it." I got the calf.

STOCKYARD RESCUE

The dying calf arrived at our New York shelter bundled in blankets. He was too weak to even lift his head, and his temperature was too low to register on a thermometer. Our veterinarian administered emergency fluids, and a 24-hour watch began to keep the calf alive. Twelve hours after receiving fluids, he began suckling on a bottle, and soon he was standing. Our new "miracle calf" was named Lazarus.

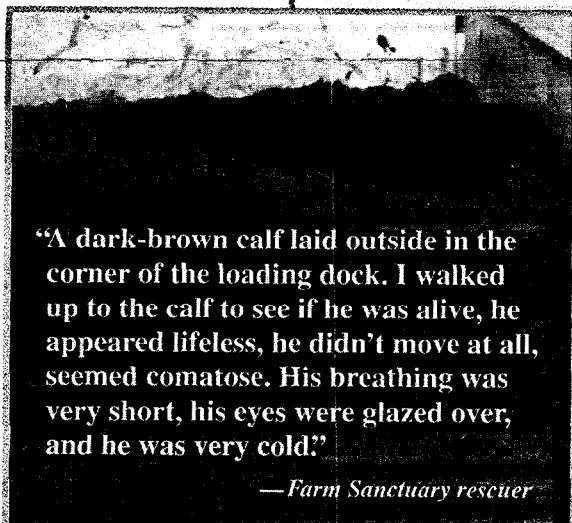
It soon became clear that Lazarus was an animal who found joy in every moment. He loved to "dance" through the fields by running and playfully kicking up his legs. At feeding times, Lazarus loved his bottle so much, he would run circles around shelter caregivers with all the excitement of a

four-year-old boy at a candy counter. Lazarus also loved to "play" with shelter cleaners by knocking over our mucking barrels...and occasionally, knocking over a shelter volunteer! Though he was a big, and growing boy, Lazarus always remained a kid at heart...and he won the heart of everyone who met him.

After months of shelter care, Lazarus was old enough to be placed into a loving, vegetarian adoptive home. Though we were sad to see him

go, we knew his adoption meant we could now open our shelter doors to one more suffering calf who desperately needs our help.

And it's back to the stockyards we go.

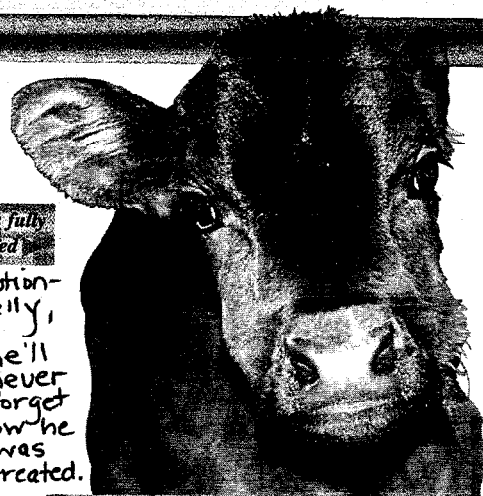


"A dark-brown calf laid outside in the corner of the loading dock. I walked up to the calf to see if he was alive, he appeared lifeless, he didn't move at all, seemed comatose. His breathing was very short, his eyes were glazed over, and he was very cold."

—Farm Sanctuary rescuer



Rehab at shelter



Lazarus fully recovered

not emotionally, he'll never forget how he was treated.

What YOU Can DO

Put up our **No Downers** educational poster in your workplace, or contact your local library for information on putting up an informational display.

NO DOWNERS

Downed animal, or "downer," are livestock which are too sick even to stand. Despite their condition, these incapacitated cows, pigs, and other animals are routinely marketed and slaughtered for human food. They suffer horribly in transit and at stockyards and slaughterhouses throughout the United States.

Incapable of getting to food or water troughs, downed animals endure hours or days without receiving their basic needs. They are commonly denied necessary veterinary care, and many die of neglect.

It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely. They are routinely dragged with chains or pushed with tractors and backhoes — procedures which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Existing laws do not adequately protect farm animals from egregious cruelty or neglect. Downed animals have literally been discarded in trash bins or on piles of dead animals, and shockingly this has been considered legal.

Help Stop Downed Animal Suffering

There are many ways to help. You can contact your local library to request a poster or video. You can contact your local humane society or animal welfare organization. You can contact your state or federal legislators. You can contact your local newspaper or television station. You can contact your local radio station. You can contact your local community center. You can contact your local school. You can contact your local church. You can contact your local synagogue. You can contact your local mosque. You can contact your local Islamic center. You can contact your local Jewish center. You can contact your local Hindu temple. You can contact your local Buddhist monastery. You can contact your local Sikh gurdwara. You can contact your local Jain temple. You can contact your local Baha'i house of worship. You can contact your local Spiritualist center. You can contact your local occult center. You can contact your local Wiccan coven. You can contact your local Pagan coven. You can contact your local Druid coven. You can contact your local Heathen coven. You can contact your local Asatru coven. You can contact your local Odin coven. You can contact your local Thor coven. You can contact your local Freya coven. You can contact your local Loki coven. You can contact your local Tyr coven. You can contact your local Heimdall coven. You can contact your local Fenrir coven. You can contact your local Jormungandr coven. You can contact your local Niflheim coven. You can contact your local Muspelheim coven. You can contact your local Asgard coven. You can contact your local Midgard coven. You can contact your local Nidavellir coven. You can contact your local Svartalfheim coven. You can contact your local Alfheim coven. You can contact your local Vanaheim coven. You can contact your local Norn coven. You can contact your local Valkyrie coven. You can contact your local Einherjar coven. You can contact your local Berserker coven. You can contact your local Thug coven. You can contact your local Assassin coven. You can contact your local Spy coven. You can contact your local Saboteur coven. You can contact your local Terrorist coven. You can contact your local Criminal coven. You can contact your local Outlaw coven. You can contact your local Rebel coven. You can contact your local Revolutionary coven. You can contact your local Patriot coven. You can contact your local Nationalist coven. You can contact your local Supremacist coven. You can contact your local Extremist coven. You can contact your local Fundamentalist coven. You can contact your local Religious coven. You can contact your local Spiritual coven. You can contact your local Mystical coven. You can contact your local Magical coven. You can contact your local Alchemical coven. You can contact your local Hermetic coven. You can contact your local Esoteric coven. You can contact your local Occult coven. You can contact your local Pseudoscientific coven. You can contact your local Quack coven. You can contact your local Fraud coven. You can contact your local Scam coven. You can contact your local Hoax coven. You can contact your local Lie coven. You can contact your local Deceit coven. You can contact your local Trick coven. You can contact your local Cheat coven. You can contact your local Con coven. You can contact your local Swindle coven. You can contact your local Hustle coven. You can contact your local Grift coven. You can contact your local Scam coven. You can contact your local Hoax coven. You can contact your local Lie coven. You can contact your local Deceit coven. You can contact your local Trick coven. You can contact your local Cheat coven. You can contact your local Con coven. You can contact your local Swindle coven. You can contact your local Hustle coven. You can contact your local Grift coven.

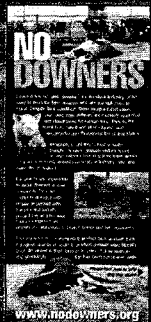
www.nodowners.org

Pass out our **No Downers** flyer to friends and family or show our video, *The Down Side of Livestock Marketing* (see p. 12 to order video).

No Downers Campaign Packet

5 posters (above)
500 flyers (at right)

\$10.00 includes S&H — send check or money order to: Farm Sanctuary, P.O. Box 150, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (please specify for **No Downers** Campaign Packet)

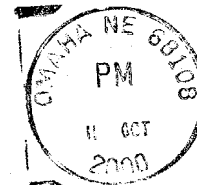


Write to your congressional representatives and urge them to support federal downed animal protection legislation.



Friends of Animals

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